

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A liquid supply method that prepares a solution by continuously supplying a supply liquid to a primary fluid that is circulating in a primary fluid circulation tube, that uses

a liquid supply apparatus that comprises:

a supply section that delivers the supply liquid; and

a supply liquid circulation tube formed in a hollow fiber shape that causes the supply liquid to flow from the supply section to the primary fluid circulation tube, the internal diameter of the supply liquid circulation tube being between 0.01 and 1 mm, wherein

when the supply solution is supplied from the supply section to the primary fluid circulation tube via the supply liquid circulation tube, a pressure P1 of the supply liquid in the supply section and a pressure P2 of the primary fluid in the primary fluid circulation tube always satisfy the formula $P1 - P2 > 0$.

Claim 2: (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Original) The liquid supply method according to claim 1, wherein the primary fluid is ultrapure water, and the supply liquid is an electrolytic aqueous solution.

Claim 4 (Original): The liquid supply method according to claim 3, wherein $P1/P2 = 1.01$ to 10.

Claim 5 (Original): The liquid supply method according to claim 3, wherein an electrolyte concentration of the primary fluid to which the supply liquid is supplied is between 0.00001 and 0.1 percent by mass.

Claim 6 (Original): The liquid supply method according to claim 3, wherein a supply quantity of the supply liquid is between 0.001 and $10 \text{ cm}^3/\text{minute}$.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The liquid supply method according to claim 6, wherein a ratio X/Y between a flow quantity X of the supply solution and a flow rate Y of the primary fluid is between $1/1000000$ and $1/1000$.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A liquid supply apparatus that prepares a solution by continuously supplying a supply liquid to a primary fluid that is circulating in a primary fluid circulation tube, the liquid supply apparatus comprising:

a supply section that delivers the supply liquid; and

a supply liquid circulation tube formed in a hollow fiber shape that causes the supply liquid to flow from the supply section to the primary fluid circulation tube, the internal diameter of the supply liquid circulation tube being between 0.01 and 1 mm , wherein

when the supply solution is supplied from the supply section to the primary fluid circulation tube via the supply liquid circulation tube, a pressure P_1 of the supply liquid in the supply section and a pressure P_2 of the primary fluid in the primary fluid circulation tube always satisfy the formula

$$P_1 - P_2 > 0.$$

Claim 9: (Canceled)

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The liquid supply method according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein a ratio X/Y between a flow quantity X of the supply solution and a flow rate Y of the primary fluid is between $1/1000000$ and $1/1000$.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The liquid supply method according to claim 3, wherein a ratio X/Y between a flow quantity X of the supply solution and a flow rate Y of the primary fluid is between $1/1000000$ and $1/1000$.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The liquid supply method according to claim 4, wherein a ratio X/Y between a flow quantity X of the supply solution and a flow rate Y of the primary fluid is between $1/1000000$ and $1/1000$.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The liquid supply method according to claim 5, wherein a ratio X/Y between a flow quantity X of the supply solution and a flow rate Y of the primary fluid is between $1/1000000$ and $1/1000$.